

Message Text

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16

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 EB-11 COME-00 INT-08 SCEM-02

CIEP-02 TRSE-00 OMB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-15 USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-15 DRC-01 /168 W

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R 290810Z SEP 73

FM USINT BAGHDAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 557

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

UNCLAS BAGHDAD 524

BEIRUT FOR RTDO

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG, BEXP, IZ

SUBJECT: PLAN FOR OIL REFINERIES IN IRAQ

1. ACCORDING TO IRAQI NEWS AGENCY, MINISTRY OF OIL AND MINERALS ANNOUNCED ON SEPT 24 NEW PLAN FOR OIL REFINING FOR EXPORT. PLAN INCLUDES EXPANSION OF EXISTING CAPACITY AND CONSTRUCTION OF NEW REFINERIES BY JOINT AGREEMENT WITH ARAB AND FOREIGN COUNTRIES. MINISTRY SOURCE SAID IRAQ'S CURRENT REFINING CAPACITY DOES NOT EXCEED 4.5MILLION TONS A YEAR AND EXPANSION FOR EXPORT IS ONE OF FUNDAMENTAL OBJECTIVES OF MINISTRY BECAUSE OF ITS ECONOMIC ADVANTAGES AND IMPACT ON NATIONAL EARNINGS.

2. SOURCE SAID MINISTRY'S PLAN IS IN STAGES TO TAKE INTO CONSIDERATION TRANSPORT AND MARKETING PROBLEMS. FIRST STAGE BEGINNING IMMEDIATELY CALLS FOR DOUBLING BASRA REFINERY CAPACITY TO 7 MILLION TONS A YEAR. SECOND STAGE MIGHT INCLUDE CONSTRUCTION OF REFINERY WITH CAPACITY OF 10 MILLION TONS A

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YEAR IN SOUTHERN IRAQ MAKING USE OF FAO INSTALLATIONS AND

INOC'S SMALL FLEET OF TANKERS; AND BUILDING IRAQI-OWNED
REFINERIES OR JOINTLY-OWNED REFINERIES WITH PARTICIPATION OF
OTHER COUNTRIES, EITHER IN IRAQ OR IN THIRD COUNTRIES.

3. COMMENT: MINISTRY OF OIL IS DOING ITS OWN TRANSLATION OF
THIS PRESS RELEASE AND HAS PROMISED TO SEND US COPY. LOWRIE

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NNN

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